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SUBJECT: REPORT ON BICENTENNIAL PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

REF: USIA 34514, STATE 267226, BRUSSELS 2606

1. POST HAS JUST CONCLUDED HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL BICENTENNIAL PARTNERSHIP PROJECT (BE-02) CONSISTING OF NOVEMBER 26-28 WEEKEND SEMINAR ON "AMERICAN STUDIES: PERSPECTIVES". SEMINAR, CO-SPONSORED WITH BELGIAN-LUXEMBOURG AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION (BLASA) AND CENTER FOR AMERICAN STUDIES, ATTENDED BY SIXTY UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS, ASSISTANT PROFESSORS, UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS, AND SEVERAL EUROPEAN AMERICANISTS FROM MEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. THE OCCASION MARKED FIRST TIME IN BELGIUM A MEETING TO DISCUSS STATUS OF AMERICAN STUDIES AND POSSIBILITIES FOR FURTHER EXPANSION IN BELGIAN UNIVERSITIES HAS BEEN HELD.

2. SITE FOR SEMINAR WAS IBM'S INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER LOCATED IN BRUSSELS SUBURB OF LA HULPE, A UNIQUE FACILITY RESEMBLING SMALL COLLEGE CAMPUS IDEAL FOR SEMINAR'S FORMAL AND INFORMAL DISCUSSION PURPOSES. PROGRAM OPENED WITH TALK BY NEW UNCLASSIFIED

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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN STUDIES CHAIRMAN HARRY ALLEN ON

RATIONALE FOR AMERICAN STUDIES IN EUROPE. NEXT IN LINE WAS AMSPEC DAVID MARCELL WITH OVERVIEW OF RECENT TRENDS IN AMERICAN STUDIES IN US. TWO EUROPEAN AMERICANISTS --WHOSE PARTICIPATION SUCCEEDED IN ILLUSTRATING THE DEGREE TO WHICH AMERICAN STUDIES HAVE PROGRESSED IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES-- WERE NEXT; UNIVERSITY OF PARIS PROFESSOR GUY FORGUE ON "SOCIOLINGUISTIC PROBLEMS IN AMERICAN ENGLISH", AND UNIVERSITY OF LEYDEN HISTORIAN SCHULTE NORDHOLT ON "200 YEARS OF THE U.S.: HAS IT MADE A DIFFERENCE"? HIGHLIGHT OF SECOND DAY, HOWEVER, WAS AFTERNOON DISCUSSION ON THE SITUATION OF AMERICAN STUDIES IN BELGIUM AND ON THE POSSIBILITIES FOR THEIR FURTHER EXPANSION, LED BY CENTER FOR AMERICAN STUDIES PRESIDENT PIERRE MICHEL. FINAL SESSION SUNDAY MORNING WAS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN STUDIES IN EUROPE LED BY AGENCY'S AMERICAN STUDIES SPECIALIST RON CLIFTON. ENTIRE SEMINAR'S PROCEEDINGS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO PARTICIPANTS AND OTHER BELGIANS WITH SERIOUS INTEREST IN AMERICAN STUDIES AS BLASA FOLLOW-UP IN FIRST OF SERIES OF OCCASIONAL PAPERS ON AMERICAN STUDIES IN BELGIUM.

3. SIMAR FULFILLED ALL POST OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PROJECT. DELIBERATIONS REVEALED WIDESPREAD INTEREST IN AMERICAN STUDIES BY BELGIAN PARTICIPANTS AND PROVIDED THEM WITH CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IS MEANT BY AMERICAN STUDIES AS WELL AS EXISTING SUPPORT SERVICES AND ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN BELGIUM. ONE IMMEDIATE RESULT WAS DECISION TO CREATE BLASA SUB-COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH TASK OF REFINING SPECIFIC SUPPORT NEEDS. SEMINAR ALSO SERVED TO CONVINCE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF LEUVEN (BELGIUM'S OLDEST AND LARGEST UNIVERSITY) DELEGATION TO PROCEED WITH PLANS TO CREATE AN INTER-DISCIPLINARY PROGRAM IN AMERICAN STUDIES MODELED AFTER SIMILAR UNIVERSITY OF LIEGE PROGRAM (ESTABLISHED TWO YEARS AGO WITH THE AID OF POST'S FIRST BICENTENNIAL PARTNERSHIP GRANT). PERHAPS SEMINAR'S MOST SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT WAS TO BRING TOGETHER LARGE GATHERING OF BELGIAN ACADEMICS WHO DISCOVERED THEY SHARE COMMON INTERESTS IN THE TEACHING OF AMERICAN SUBJECT, AND WHOSE INTERESTS COALESCED INTO UNANIMOUS DESIRE TO STAY IN TOUCH AND BE KEPT INFORMED ABOUT AMERICAN STUDIES DEVELOPMENTS. BOTH BLASA AND CENTER FOR AMERICAN STUDIES EMERGED WITH ENHANCED IMAGE OF INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATIONS INTERESTED IN MEETING PROFESSIONAL NEEDS OF BELGIAN ACADEMIC COMMUNITY.

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4. PARTICIPATION OF AMSPEC MARCELL AND RON CLIFTON PROVED ESSENTIAL TO SEMINAR'S SUCCESS. BOTH WERE HIGHLY ARTICULATE, SUPERB REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP. THEIR EXPERIENCE, COMMENTS, AND OBSERVATIONS PROVIDED THE NECESSARY BACKGROUND TO SEMINAR'S THEME AND KEPT DISCUSSIONS ON REALISTIC TRACK. POST MOST GRATEFUL TO DEPARTMENT AND TO USIA FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION.MCINTOSH

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